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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
15 October 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Significant Developments in the Latin
American Countries on the Counterinsur-
gency Critical List

A. Countries on the Critical List

Venezuela

Terrorist activities since 7 October have continued at a high rate with no sign of abating. Most of the terrorist attacks were aimed at police, military, and government personnel and installations, and at public communications. There were eight reported assaults on police headquarters, seven assaults on government personnel and property, seven attacks on radio and TV installations, and three attacks on army personnel and installations. Of ten attacks on private property, four were on US-owned property.

The police have borne the brunt of the casualties. At least six police were killed and eight wounded in the terrorist attacks and street gun-battles since 7 October. The Caracas police have lost over 50 men during the past year.

According to Havana press, the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) terrorist offensive is going into its third phase, "operation dignity." The commander of the FALN addressed a speech to the people calling them to form "self-defense groups" in order to "prevent offensively, by every means, the extermination raids being conducted by the repressive forces of the dictatorship." He also urged national guardsmen, police, and soldiers to desert the "murderous ranks of the government."

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Although the leading opposition candidates have denounced the government's strong-arm measures, President Betancourt is going ahead in his effort to strengthen the government's effectiveness against the terrorists. His firm measures apparently have appeased the military, at least temporarily.

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